INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

S-E-C-R-E-T

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REPORT

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. VEB Walzwerk Willy Becker, Kirchmoeser (Havel)

a. The rolling mill is accommodated in two halls of the former State Railroad Repair Plant at Kirchmoeser. It has a thick sheet train of rolls and a thin sheet train of rolls. These were dismantled by the Russians in 1945/46 but were subsequently returned.

b. The thick sheet mill is working satisfactorily both from a quantity and a quality point of view. The thin sheet mill which has been mechanized and provided with a cooling device is also working satisfactorily.

c. Billets are mostly supplied by water transport from VEB Stahl-und Walzwerk Wilhelm Florin, Hennigsdorf, and from VEB Stahlbau Brandenburg.

d. The labor force in December 1954 was 1,234.

e. A Soviet Army tank assembly and repair shop is located on the grounds of the rolling mill. The requirements of this workshop in sheet steel must be provided in full by VEB Walzwerk Willy Becker, Kirchmoeser.

2. VEB Walzwerk Hettstedt, Hettstedt am Harz

a. The Hettstedt plant of the former Mansfeld A.G. was an SAG concern until 31 December 1953. After that date, the plant was placed under the direct control of the Production Area for the Iron Industry of the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

b. In 1947, the plant largely went over to the production of thick steel sheets. As before, however, there is also a nonferrous metal re-smelting workshop with 17 induction, high frequency, and crucible furnaces. Nonferrous (mainly copper) sheets, strips, rods, and wire are also being rolled.

c. The rolling mill consists of one thick sheet train of rolls, fully modernized, with a capacity of 200,000 tons per year.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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d. Billets come from Hennigsdorf and Brandenburg.

e. The labor force at the end of 1954 was 6,102.

3. VEB Stahl-und Walzwerk, Groeditz

a. After the end of the war, the Groeditz plant was almost completely dismantled. A strip mill was returned by the USSR in 1949, and the plant was reconstructed. The five 20-ton open hearth furnaces, which were completely out of date, were kept in use to supply the strip mill.

b. The installation of a modern 6,000-ton forging press made it imperative to modernize the plant. At the end of 1953, the five old 20-ton open hearth furnaces were replaced, one by one, by five new 40-ton automatic open hearth furnaces. Replacement has been completed. The plant possesses the only strip mill and the largest forging press in East Germany.

c. At the end of 1954, the Groeditz plant had a labor force of 6,000.

4. VEB Walzwerk Burg (near Magdeburg)

a. The former Treves rolling mill was dismantled after the end of the war. Since 1949, the USSR has been returning dismantled rolling mills to East Germany. Among their number were two trains of rolls from the Treves mill which were returned to Burg, and the reconstruction of the plant was begun with great energy.

b. The plant now has two thin sheet trains of rolls, each of which consists of one 2-high cogging mill and two 2-high finishing mills. Linked up with them is a temper pass mill. Modern reheating and other furnaces have been installed (Gluehofen, Stoss-und Hubofen, Paketofen).

c. Following are the types of sheet produced:

(1) Dynamo sheet of 0.5, 0.75 and 1 mm. thickness. This constitutes over 50% of the sheet rolled.
(2) Transformer sheet of 0.35 and 0.5 mm. thickness.
(3) Chrome-nickel steel sheet, open hearth steel sheet, and basic steel sheet from 1 to 3 mm. thickness.

d. Although the Burg rolling mill installations are considered to be up to date, about 40% of the transformer sheets have to be scrapped; the other types of sheet scrap amounts to about 5%.

5. VEB Rohr-und Kaltwalzwerk, Karl-Marx-Stadt (formerly Faradit Rohr-und Walzwerk A.G)

This plant has a tube welding plant which produces electrically welded tubes of 30 to 90 mm. internal diameter and 2.5 to 7 meters in length. Its capacity is about 12,000 tons per year.